Government equated composite milk with the powerloom sector in the matter of excise duty; and

(c) if so, what measures Government have taken to give relief to the powerloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) (a) No. Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c)Since the production of cloth by the powerloom sector has been steadily increasing while that of the composite mill sector has teen declining, the question of giving any special relief to the powerloom sector doss not arise.

Spinning: Mills

3450. SHRI VITHALRAo MADH-AVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra are pending with the Central Government; and

(b) what is the position of financing of the eleven-cooperative spinning mills in the backward regions of Maharashtra which are being set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHBI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) There *is* at present no fresh proposal pending with the Government for the licensing of any new cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra.

(b) The Industrial Development Hank of India have been advised to consider the financing of these projects favourably.

Authorised/Unauthorised Poweriooms

3451. SHRI VITHALRAo MA-MADHAVRAO JADHAV; SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of authorised and unauthorised powerlooms at present in the country;

(b) how many authorised and unauthorised poweiiooms are at present working in Maharashtra; and

(c) what credit facility is extended to these powerlooms and especially to those in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER, OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM). (a) and (b) According to available information, as on 30-6-1988 there were 4.69,155 authorised and 3,04,300 un-authorised powerlooms in the decentralized sector in the country. Out of these, there were 209,162 authorised and 1.07,042 unauthorised powerlooms in Maharashtra. Out of these approximately. 3.5 per cent of the total num-ber of powerlooms in Maharashtra were lying closed.

(c) the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development and the Industrial Development Bank of India provide refinance both for term loans and working capital to powerloom cooperatives through cooperatives/commercial banks|State Financial Corporations. State Governments have been requested to encourage the formation of powrlooms cooperatives for augmenting the flow of credit to powerlooms~

Excise Duty Relief for Paper Industry

3452. SHRI D. B. CHANDRR GOW DA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

fa) whether It is a fact that the paper industry in the country is in dol**.**

drums grid is urging Government to provide excise duty relief;

(b) if so what is Government's reaction to the repeated representations of the paper industry in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide relief to the paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) in this year's Budget Government have granted certain concessions from excise duty to the paper industry. Representations have been received subsequently from the paper industry see-: further duty concessions. These have been examined but the Govern-do not and any justification at present for granting further conces-sions.

Abolition of Export Duty on Coffee

3453. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOW-Will the Minister of FINANCE *ha* pleased to state:

fa) whether Government have re-1 rep^esntatio'ns in con-the abolition of export duty on coffee;

the small farmers and cultivators have been mainly affected due to thr levy of export duty on coffee; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto and by when a final decision is to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Government have received representations seeking abolition of export duty on coffee, inter alia, on the ground that the duty has adversely affected small farmsrs and coffee cultivators.

The representations have been examined. Taking into account various relevant factors such as the trend in international prices, cost of production, export prospects etc Government have reduced the export duty on coffee, from Rs. 1700/- to Rs. 1000[-per tonne with effect from the 18th August, 1988.

Funds for Agricultural Pumps in Maharashtra

3454. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NAB-ARD's restrictions are prohibiting Land Development Banks and Cooperative Banks to release funds to the Maharashtra State Eelectricity Board to enable it to give electriciy connections for agricultural pumps'; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY oF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEI-RO). (a) and (b) Information is be-ing collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Charging of Interest on Special Central Assistance to Maharashtra

3455. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to Pass on the entire component of external aid (Special Central Assistance) to the State and charge the same rate of • interest which is charged by the ex-ternal agency which is giving the aid; and